

PACIFIC Expedition

Inside:

- Committee reviews COLA decrease
- Limited recall of bottled water
- Senior NCO induction ceremony
- Volunteers help at local convent
- Education center rep

July 30, 1999

Kwang Ju Air Base, Republic of Korea

Vol. 1, No. 11

12th Fighter Squadron F-15Cs dog fight with A-10s, F-16s

By 1st Lt. Michele Tasista

3rd Air Expeditionary Group Public AffairsKadena
F-15Cs own airfield

There are fewer F-15s on Kwang Ju's flight line this week after the departure of the 90th Fighter Squadron's 18 F-15E aircraft, but it is still an active area with the 12th Fighter Squadron's daily flying operations.

The unit has flown more than 100 sorties since arriving to Kwang Ju Air Base nearly two weeks ago with eight F-15C aircraft and more than 125 people.

The unit was sent from Kadena Air Base, Japan, to participate in Cope Jade with the 90th Fighter Squadron and other Korean theater units in Cope Jade 99-4. The unit is scheduled to return to Japan next week.

Training in Korea

"We are able to fly low altitude and accomplish night training over land, which allows us to experience and become more familiar with the kind of environment we can expect to fly and fight in," said Lt. Col. James Pillar, assistant operations officer.

One reason aircrews enjoy the training opportunity here at Kwang Ju, according to Pillar, is the wide-open air space, which has fewer flying restrictions than Japan or the United States.

"If we need to go a particular direction to make a tactical move, we rarely have a problem with air space here," said Pillar.

Flying 16 missions daily

After returning from a mission earlier this week, Capt. Kevin Huyck, pilot, said the best aspect of being in Korea is the dissimilar air combat training. "Our flying today included visual infighting with A-10s," said Huyck. "This allows us to use close in, visual identification methods for employing close range weapons. This is good practice because we are able to work on air combat maneuvers through close visual dog fights."

The unit will maximize the training opportunity and has scheduled 16 missions daily, three missions per aircraft, in order to do so, according to Pillar.

(maintenance pg. 3)

12th Fighter Squadron images this week



(L to R- Capt Steve Neuser conducts pre-flight inspection, F-15C with crew, Staff Sgt. John Brown prepares to marshal an F-15C)



The 3rd Air Expeditionary Group initiated Typhoon Condition one (TCOR-1) procedures as a tropical depression with winds exceeding 50 knots neared Kwang Ju Air Base earlier this week.

The 12th Fighter Squadron secured aircraft in hangars as a precaution.

Maintenance team on the job

The maintenance team is ensuring the unit maintains the pace of operations with non-stop support, according to Capt. Henry Myers, maintenance officer. “They’re doing a good job,” he said.

The training opportunity presented by the deployment has been beneficial, according to Chief Master Sgt. Al Kinman, maintenance superintendent, who has been to Kwang Ju several times.

“This environment helps the younger folks appreciate what we are in the Air Force for and helps them to focus on their jobs,” said Kinman.



Lt. Co. Rick Tollini, 12th Fighter Squadron operations officer, prepares to taxi out earlier this week.

“It is a good opportunity to work here since this is where we’d be sent in a real-world situation,” said Airman Matt Berra.

This is also when people learn how to improvise, according to Kinman.

The team has received supply and logistics support from 90th Fighter Squadron elements, in addition to Osan and Kunsan Air Bases, in obtaining supply items needed, according to Kinman.

The support provided by other units and bases is consistent with the 12th’s team spirit, according to Myers.

“We’ve been helping each other, even though our aircraft tails have different colors—we’re all operating as one team,” said Myers.

Volunteers help at Local Catholic Convent



After finishing the benches, volunteers placed them on the nature walk, then toured the convent which was built in 1984.

By 1st Lt. Michele Tasista

3rd Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

Chaplains' Ron Harvell and George C. George took a group of more than 10 volunteers to the Sisters of Seton Hill convent to sand and shellack benches Saturday.

This was the second year for

the deployed group at Kwang Ju to provide volunteers, according to Father George C. George. During the first deployment group to Kwang Ju in 1998, a set of volunteers helped clear brush and weeds near the convent.

The pattern of volunteers helping from Kwang Ju is

appreciated by residents, according to Sister Mary Anne.

"The social outreach is nice," she said. "This shows the Air Force is concerned for the well being of the community."

"People don't commonly know about us," said Sister Songok. "We really don't know about people in the Air Force. Their volunteer efforts change the way we have tended to view people in the military."



A volunteer sands a bench Saturday.

The group was invited in for a traditional Korean meal.

"It is nice to get out in the community and be in an environment which will help me to grow spiritually," said Staff Sgt. Karl Wiegand, fire station captain for B shift.

"There is more to life than watching movies and playing video games," said Wiegand, who placed the first bench.

The benches were placed on a trail, and will be used by the sisters, as they walk the path—so they will be able to pause, rest and meditate, according to Sister Mary Anne.

(COLA from page 3)

In response to Alaskan Command's concern for its servicemembers, the committee has scheduled a visit to Alaska to conduct a transportation survey for a more in-depth look at transportation costs in Alaska.

"We believe they are not taking all of these expenses into consideration," she said.

The difference between summer prices versus winter prices, both on military installations and the local economy, also needs to be re-examined, she added.

Cost of living allowances are affected by what kind of informa-

tion service members put on the Living Pattern Surveys that were last distributed in June 1998.

If the surveys are not filled out properly, or families report that they purchased more goods on their installations rather than on the local economy, the COLA can be reduced.

"People reported they were shopping on their installations more for certain items, which puts a higher weight on lower prices, having an adverse effect on COLA rates," said Kraushar. "We are going to educate everyone before the next survey."